

US Serial No. 10/691,104

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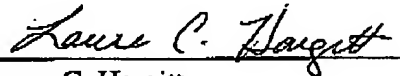
REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-16 are now in condition for allowance. The rejection of claims 17 and 18 is maintained in the present action despite Applicants' previously submitted remarks. As such claims 17 and 18 are canceled herein.

Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0960 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,



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